

The Rural District Council of Drayton.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st
DECEMBER, 1910.

To the Rural District Council of Drayton.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report upon the health of your district for the year 1910.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Drayton comprises an area of upwards of 51,000 acres, situated in the great central plain of England. The general elevation of the district is about 300 feet. The district extends from the parishes of Adderley and Norton-in-Hales on the North, to the parish of Woore on the North-East, where the three counties, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire join; to the South, as far as and including the parishes of Hinstock and Child's Ercall, and the villages of Eaton and Little Bolas in Stoke parish. On the East it is bounded by the River Tern and the parish of Cheswardine. On the West it extends to and includes the village of Stoke-upon-Tern, the parish and village of Hodnet, and the hamlet of Marchamley. Near the centre of the district is the town of Market Drayton, with the township of Little Drayton adjoining, and the parish of Moreton Say. The formation throughout is the new red sandstone, which attains its greatest elevation in England in the Hawkstone Hills, near the Western limit of the district. The River Tern in its winding course to the Severn drains the greater portion of the district. The land in general contour is level, well watered, highly cultivated, and there are some finely timbered estates. The population is chiefly employed in agricultural pursuits.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following figures show the annual birth-rate, death-rate, zymotic death-rate, and infant mortality rate for 1910, and the average rates for the previous ten years in Drayton Rural District; and in Rural England and Wales for 1910:—

Drayton Rural District for 1910—Annual Rates per 1,000 living: Births 25.5, deaths 11.9, principal epidemic diseases, 0.69, deaths under one year per 1,000 births 55.; ditto average for previous ten years—births 25.1, deaths 15.6, principal epidemic diseases 0.93, deaths under one year per 1,000 births, 116; Rural England and Wales for 1910—births 25.0, deaths 13.6, principal epidemic diseases 0.74, deaths under one year per 1,000 births 96.

POPULATION. — At the last census (1901) the population of the district was 11,708. The estimated population to the middle of 1910 was 11,488. The natural increase of population (that is, the excess of the births over the deaths registered in the year) was 157. The area of the district (exclusive of area covered by water) is 51,383 acres.

The number of inhabited houses at last census was 2,655, and the average number of persons in each house was 4.4.

MARRIAGES. — Seventy-three marriages were registered in the whole district during the year, compared with 84 in 1909, 78 in 1908, 79 in 1907, and 102 in 1906.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in 1910 were 293, of which 13 were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 25.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, against an average rate of 25.1 per 1,000 for the preceding ten years.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered was 136. This includes two “non-residents” whose deaths have to be deducted, but three “residents” died in public institutions outside the district, and these have to be added, making a net total of 137 deaths, giving a death-rate of 11.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population per annum. The average death-rate for the previous ten years was 15.6 per 1,000. The number of deaths certified as due to the seven chief epidemic diseases was 8, equal to a zymotic death-rate of 0.69 per 1,000 compared with the average rate for the preceding 10 years of 0.93.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Sixteen infants under one year of age died during the 12 months, equal to an infant mortality rate of 55 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the preceding ten years was 116 per 1,000 births. With the exception of 1909 there has been a steady decrease in the rate of infant mortality in the district since 1902, when the rate was 145 per 1,000 births.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS. — Of the 137 deaths, 63 were of persons of the age of 65 and upwards, and 26 under five years. Ten deaths were certified as due to old age—5 males and 5 females—the average age attained by the males being 83, by the females 84 years. Heart diseases accounted for 27 deaths, cancer 22, bronchitis 8, pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption) and other tuberculous diseases 7, pneumonia, kidney diseases and cerebral hemorrhage 4 each, diabetes and intestinal obstruction 2 each. Five deaths were due to accidents; 8 deaths were certified by H.M.’s Coroner. Further details as to causes of, ages at death, averages, etc., will be found in the official tables of the Local Government Board affixed to this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Eighty-six cases of infectious disease were notified to me from the whole district during the year, viz.: 41 of diphtheria (including membranous croup), 37 of scarlet fever, 3 of erysipelas, and 5 of pulmonary tuberculosis. Fifty-six patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Little Drayton—35 suffering from diphtheria and 21 from scarlet fever. There were six deaths from diphtheria—4 in the hospital and 2 outside—and two deaths from whooping cough. Measles and whooping cough are not yet notifiable. Pulmonary tuberculosis (phthisis or consumption) has been notifiable (voluntarily) in the district since 1900, but very few cases have been notified. Fatal cases are reported to me by the Registrar of Deaths, and notices are sent to the representatives of the deceased of the disinfection, &c., necessary to be carried out. In all cases of infectious disease notified, printed instructions are at once sent to the occupiers of the infected houses, stating

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the precautions to be taken in order to prevent the spread of infection, and as to keeping children from school. Notices are also sent to school teachers as to the periods children are to be excluded from school. Where unsanitary conditions have been found they have been reported to the Council, either by the Sanitary Inspector or myself. At the termination of all cases, and immediately after the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. At the Isolation Hospital a steam disinfecter is used for clothing, &c., before the patient is allowed to leave.

SCHOOLS CLOSED. — Norton-in-Hales Schools were closed for three weeks in January, in consequence of an outbreak of measles. Hodnet Schools were closed from the 11th to 30th March on account of an outbreak of diphtheria. Child's Ercall School was closed for a month from 7th March in consequence of the prevalence of whooping cough. Norton Schools (mixed department) were closed for a week in July, a case of measles having occurred; and Moreton Say School (Infants' department) was closed for a week in October for the same reason.

VACCINATION. — The following statistics of vaccination in your district for the year have been supplied to me by the Vaccination Officer:—Of the 293 children born and registered 185 were successfully vaccinated, 47 were not of age at the end of the year, 13 died unvaccinated, the vaccination of 10 was postponed by medical certificate, 5 were removed from the district, and 33 children remain unvaccinated owing to the conscientious objection of their parents to vaccination.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—This is ample and generally satisfactory for the district. In Market Drayton and Little Drayton conditions have improved in recent years, many old and dilapidated houses having been closed, and an increasing number of houses have been built for the accommodation of the working classes.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.—Lodging-houses, bake-houses, and slaughter-houses are regularly inspected. A systematic inspection of all registered dairies, cow-sheds, &c., in the district has been made, and a printed report will shortly be sent to the Local Government Board and the County Council.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—Occupiers are responsible, no public system being in force. The removal and disposal of refuse is regulated by bye-laws.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL. — This is partly by water closets and partly by privies and outside closets in connection with cess-pits. Owing to the abundant water supply, the water carriage system ought to be exclusively adopted in Drayton and Little Drayton.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. — The revised scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and the scientific treatment of the sewage of Market Drayton has been completed. A difficulty has arisen in regard to the acquisition of a field as a site for the works and outfall. This will probably soon be overcome, and when the sanction of the

Local Government Board has been obtained the works will be begun immediately.

WATER SUPPLY.—Market Drayton and Little Drayton have an abundant and excellent supply of water from the mains of the Market Drayton Water Company, over 1,000 houses being connected. The supply has been extended to Betton and Ringwardine. Cheswardine has a public supply. A public supply for Nerton-in-Hales from a spring near the village has been approved by the County Medical Officer, provided the supply can be proved to be constant. In the other villages in the district the water supplies, being chiefly derived from pump or draw wells often faulty in construction and in bad situations, require improvement. In some cases, both in quantity and quality.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.—The official tables of the Home Office, showing the extent of the administration of the Act in the district, are affixed to this report.

NUISANCES, &c.—A summary of the work done during the year by your Sanitary Inspector is given below in tabular form.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

Market Drayton,

21st March, 1911.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1910, in the Drayton Rural Sanitary District:—

Number of Houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey ...	676
Number of legal notices sent, not including letters from the Clerk nor notices to disinfect after Infectious Disease	2
Number of informal notices sent or given verbally	263
Number of such notices complied with	242

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices:—

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	67
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply ...	21
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	41
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	14
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	12
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds	95
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	9
(h) Houses over-crowded	4
(j) Water certificates granted	5

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops:—Special Report.

Remarks.—The above numbers do not include inspections of Lodging Houses, Bake-houses, Slaughter-houses, inspections under Factory Acts, Canal Boat Acts, Petroleum Acts, and other work done as Surveyor in connection with sewers, sewage disposal, &c., and water supplies to villages.

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